

# Rosedale News

Margarette Joyner, Editor



## ***African American Legacy Project***

The African American Legacy Project would like to thank all who made our Black History Month Program a huge success! Our hosts Margarette Joyner and Ra-an Wyley did a marvelous job in keeping the program moving and taking very good care of our guests. After prayer and libation honoring the Native peoples of this land and the forty plus enslaved human beings that worked and lived on this property, we fellowshiped with food from MoRae's Catering. We were enlightened about the work of the Blacksmith by our own Marty Foil, were privileged to hear the story of an enslaved ancestor from Williamsburg, VA from actor interpreter, Joshua Carter and were honored to witness the phenomenon that is Queen City Sr. Drummers and Praise Dancers. We also had a children's tent where they created their own rainsticks, a silent auction, and various items in our gift shop to coincide with our theme of "Music is Our Refuge." There was also an exhibit in the kitchen of the main house that featured various traditional African instruments as well as an exhibit in the main parlor featuring lesser known African American musicians who made significant strides in the musical genre. We were delighted to have our Chairperson, Ms. Jackson in the house who was thoroughly pleased with our efforts. For interest in our program please contact [margarette.joyner@historicrosedale.org](mailto:margarette.joyner@historicrosedale.org).

**Barbara Jackson, Chairman**  
**African American Legacy Project**  
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## ***Historic Rosedale***

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<http://historicrosedale.org>

It is the mission of Historic Rosedale to interpret three important themes; the ancestral families who owned the house and surrounding property, the enslaved and freed African Americans who worked and lived on the land through many generations, and the unique architectural features, decorative arts, and natural landscapes that are showcased in the 1815 historic house and its nine acres of gardens and grounds.

## ***What's Next?***



***"To The Rescue: The Women That Saved Rosedale"***  
***March & April***

***Arboretum Opening***  
***April 26th***  
***8:45-9:45***

***"Crafters Market"***  
***May 10th***  
***10:00 - 2:00***

***"Costumed Tea Party"***  
***May 24th***  
***2:00 - 5:00***

## ***Tidbit***

*As the New South dawned after the Civil War, Charlotte took off - first as a railroad junction and then as a cotton mill hub. Today, it is one of America's largest banking centers and one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas.*

# “The Women Who Saved Rosedale”

by Cheralyn Lambeth

Throughout its 200+ year history, Rosedale has been home to many notable women. Through their contributions, Rosedale’s legacy was maintained and, in many ways, saved from being lost altogether. From Sarah Frew Davidson, whose money saved the home from foreclosure; to Cherry, the enslaved house servant who took care of Rosedale’s resident children following the untimely death of their mother. Then from Harriet Caldwell; to Mary Louise and Alice Davidson, the home’s last residents, and the Mecklenberg Committee of the Colonial Dames of America who purchased the property and raised the funds towards its preservation and restoration, it was the women of Rosedale who played a substantial part in saving the home and its history.

In honor of Women’s History Month, Rosedale is proud to share the stories of these and many other of our site’s remarkable women in our current exhibit “To the Rescue: The Women Who Saved Rosedale.” This exhibit will be on display in the house and included with regular house tours through the end of April. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at [historidrosedal.org](http://historidrosedal.org)

## High Tea!

Get ready, get ready, get ready!! Before you know it we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Meck Dec!

In honor of this auspicious occasion we invite you to pull out your best historical costume and join the staff and Board of Directors at Historic Rosedale for tea and crumpets. As we play classical music, you will be welcome to dance a minuet or waltz under the pavilion or simply listen to some 18th century music. You can also participate in in our costume contest where there will be prizes for first, second and third place winners!

# From the Garden

by Sandy Maguran



## Dr. Larry Mellichamp Memorial Arboretum at Historic Rosedale Dedication Ceremony

**Keynote Speaker: Paula Gross**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2025**  
**8:45 - 9:45 a.m.**

We will have a complimentary Arboretum highlight tour after the ceremony and unveiling. Regular house and garden tours will also be available. For more information, please contact Sandy Maguran, Gardener, at 704-335-0325

## Hi Honey!

By Ra-an Wiley



Honey offers various potential health benefits, including acting as an antioxidant, supporting wound healing, potentially improving gut health, and even aiding in weight management.

## A Garden Welcome from The Weed Lady

by Ronna Abbott

Greetings from the Weed Lady!

It’s winter and I am home! Stay safe, stay healthy and stay warm. I’ll see you soon!

# About the Inhabitants

by Cheralyn Lambeth

**Sarah Frew Davidson** (1772-1812) was the sister of Archibald Frew, Rosedale's first resident owner, and came to Charlotte with her brother when they were orphaned in the late 1790s. While Sarah never lived at Rosedale, she figures prominently in its history. Sarah first married Thomas Davidson, a prominent planter in Mecklenburg County, and after his passing married his nephew William Davidson, who was later named a North Carolina State Senator. Having had to give over all her property to her first husband when they wed, (*which was surprisingly substantial for a young woman of her time*), Sarah had the foresight to implement an agreement with her second husband before their marriage, making certain her money remained hers in the event of his death. Family tradition states that it was in fact her money that saved Rosedale from foreclosure when Archibald went bankrupt in 1816. Sarah and William established their own home (*The Grove*) in N. Mecklenburg County, where they had five children, one of whom was Harriet Davidson Caldwell who later came to live at Rosedale in 1826 with her husband, Dr. David Thomas Caldwell.

## Descendant Spotlight

by Margarette Joyner



AAL Memorial Garden groundbreaking

Kyle Smith is a direct descendant of Nat Caldwell, Blacksmith and Anna Eccles who were his 4th Great Grandparents.

He is a CRM Specialist for a Wall Street based law firm. He is also a long-time educator teaching Math and ELA to 3rd and 4th graders in a local Saturday enrichment program. He is a board member and treasurer at Egbe Iwa (egbeiwa.org), a year long rites of passage program to transitioning young adults.

He is also a member of Rosedale's AAL Committee and designed the African American Memorial with assistance from Rosedale, related cousins Tawana Allen, Tamia Williams and AAL committee members Elizabeth Myers and Ronald Schumann.

## Laborers

by Martin Foil

### *A word from our Blacksmith*

Spring has sprung at Historic Rosedale and the blacksmith shop is in full swing again for 2025! Our resident blacksmiths – Jason, John and Martin can be found in the blacksmith shop on the second and fourth Saturdays and the second Thursday of each month in our faithful recreation of a traditional 19th century blacksmith shop – built on the site of the original Rosedale forge. Stop in and learn about the enslaved smiths at Rosedale – Nat, Nat Jr., Randall, Ephraim, Alphred and the impact they had on the local Charlotte communities. Interested guests can also try their hand at operating the forge bellows! Remember to check out the Rosedale Gift Shop – we have many hand forged items available for sale!



# The Gift Shop

by Laura Olls

We are happy to announce that we have been making some changes in the gift shop! With new displays and rearrangements, come see it for yourself! One very exciting new addition is a play titled "**Message from an Ancestor**" written by our very own, AAL Coordinator, Margarette Joyner. Along with our usual products, throughout the next several months, the Welcome Center will be decked out for our Black History Month Celebration themed, "**Music is Our Refuge.**" We are grateful to all the artisans who have graced our shop with their handmade items, and to those who provided items for our silent auction.

## Join the Friends of Historic

### Rosedale

We've all heard it - *Membership has its benefits.* This holds true at Historic Rosedale. Members receive a host of benefits: Free grounds admission, free guided house tours, discounts at the gift shop, on event tickets, and in some cases discounts on site rental fees. Most importantly, membership fees help fund the often-overlooked general operating expenses of the Foundation. Preservation and special programming can be funded by grants and large individual donors, but it is the everyday expenses of running the site and the Foundation that suffer most from a lack of financial security. This is especially true for private foundations which receive no government funding. Is becoming a member important? **YES!** Become our friend and join today!

[Membership - Historic Rosedale](#)



**Donations!** *Every little bit helps!*

**Volunteers!** *If you have an hour or two, we'll take it!*

**Batting/Multi Purpose Foam Drums**

**Brown Cardboard**

**Potting soil**

**Mulch**

# Poetry Corner

"The Eagle"

Tennyson, 1851

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands;  
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

## Did you know?

When you hear the term "Founding Fathers," who do you think of? We're guessing George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and the Adams cousins (*John and Sam*). In reality, there's no official list of Founding Fathers! The term commonly refers to those who signed the Declaration of Independence which George Washington missed out on, since he was in New York preparing to fight the British. More frequently, we call the men who helped start and shape our country the Founding Fathers, regardless of where they were and when.

## A Word From The Board

by Janet Levy

Historic Rosedale has initiated a search for a new Executive Director, with the valuable support of board member, Shannon Curtis, and board members Barbara Taylor, Tom Spada, Anne Moore and Martin Foil, Volunteer Blacksmith. We have advertised with the NC Museums Council, the Arts and Science Council and the SE Museums Council. Several promising applications have been received and we are looking forward to having this position filled very soon.

Additionally, we have completed the major repairs to the house. We still have the back porch and main bedroom entrance to complete, **but we have run out of funds.** The dormers, chimney caps, front entrance, porches, west side entrance doors and siding, window sills, frames and shutters have all been repaired and painted. So far this phase has taken 18 months! Once the above repairs are complete, we will need funding for Phase II, **CLEAN AND PAINT THE HOUSE!**